

Silhouette

Vol. 71 No. 4

Ambridge Area High School

January 1997

Administration tries to resolve problems concerning seniors

by Jaime Cole

Early Thursday morning on December 12, Dr. Parry, Mr. Roman and Mr. Eagle met with seven seniors to discuss various issues. The most pertinent was the supposed third "Senior Skip Day" this year. The three administrators spoke with the five Senior Class officers and the president and vice-president of Student Council seeking "student input as to how we could address the issue of the frequent skip days, the present parking lot situation and the possible rebirth of weighted courses at Ambridge", according to Mr. Eagle.

The administrators feel that the senior class is holding too many "senior outings" this year. December 13 was to be the third of this year. Last year only two were held the

entire year. The rate of senior truancy is excessively extreme on those days. On an average day, six percent of the total school population is absent, but an average of seventy percent of seniors were absent on the two previous skip days. The question was then asked, "What can be taken away?" At other high schools, the administration took away the prom for students caught being truant. Ambridge has decided to follow that path. There will be stricter monitoring of the students, including house visits and going to local hangouts. A letter will also be sent to students' houses explaining the school's policy on truancy and letting parents know that the school is in no way condoning skip days. If students are truant, and they are caught, special measures will be taken, including the possibility of not being

able to attend the prom. Mr. Eagle thought that the meeting was successful in this aspect because "people did not skip on senior skip day."

Another concern that was addressed was the large amount of empty parking spaces every day in the student parking lot. It was decided that the students whose spaces were consecutively empty would be contacted. They will be asked if they are willing to give up their spaces or share a space with someone else.

The last issue discussed was the possibility that the school would bring back weighted courses. They spoke mainly about whether or not to do it and, if they are brought back, which classes deserve to be weighted. Although much was talked about, Mr. Eagle felt, "No consensus was



reached. We understand it is a concern... but we really have to keep talking about it."

The meeting was productive overall, although not many final decisions were reached. Senior Marie Persi, Student Council president, stated, "The meeting went well, but there are still a lot of things to talk about, and hopefully in the near future things will be resolved."



1996 Mistletoe Court (L to R) Senior Representatives: Mandi Battisti, Josh Baker, Missy Smoley, Amber Richards, Claudia Burnett, Todd Gnarra; Junior Representatives: Jessica Musi and Nathan Harmon. (Photo Courtesy of Memorable Photography)

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Skip school-skip the prom

by Katie Madonna

The administration and the student leaders of Ambridge High met on November 12 to discuss a very important issue: senior skip days.

Dr. Parry and some fellow administrators are rightfully upset about the frequent and widely observed senior holidays. So far this year there have been three skip days, an astounding number when compared to last year's total of two. The administrators believe this to be an obstruction to the learning process and want it stopped--now. There has even been talk of canceling the prom, or at least restricting attendance to those students with parent-excused absences.

I am a senior. I take what I like to call "mental health days." If some of those days happen to fall on the due date of a major assignment or a day when maybe 70 percent of the rest of the senior class is absent, I really have no control over that. But when it comes down to canceling the prom or coming to school one or two days, I think I and the other seniors could manage to make it to school.

I would like to make it very clear, without preaching, that Dr. Parry is not just trying to scare the seniors. He really is trying to think of a way to get attendance up on skip days and will threaten to cancel the prom if this deviant behavior persists.

I understand that nobody

Letter to the Editor

"To thine own self..."

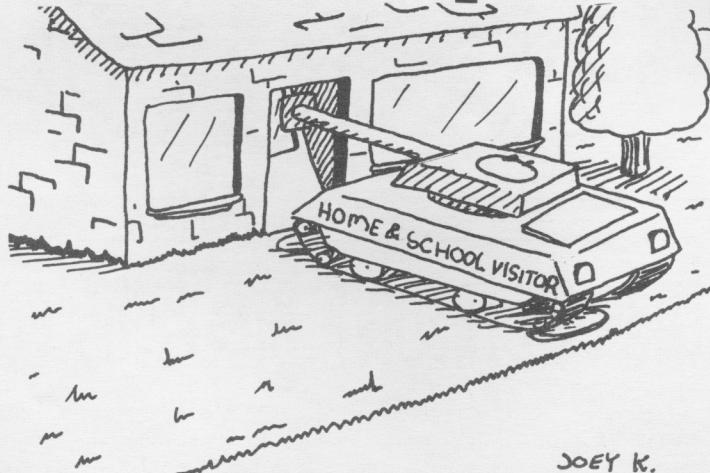
Dear Editor,

Although I applaud Michael Cody for voicing his opinion on a situation he perceives regarding the gifted Communications class, I have yet (in my thirty years of teaching) been told that any course I taught was less than challenging or a "blow off" course.

In response to Michael's question "...why overexert yourself studying for C.P. English when GATE class looks better on the transcript and the A's are much easier?" My response would be, "To thine own self be true." You know who you are and perhaps the world will not perceive which courses did or did not provide a challenge, but then who is the benefactor of personal academic pursuit -- you or the world?

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leonardo
Communications Teacher



JOEY K.

thinks it is a big deal; after all, senior skip day is tradition, right? Wrong. So many skip days so early is unprecedented in recent AAHS history. At a rate of one a month, there will be eight or nine before the year is out. Even I have to admit that rate is a bit much.

Even Dr. Parry admits that once the feared senioritis sets in, one or two skip days late in the year is understandable, but a line must be drawn. Many seniors do not realize that some classes are essentially shut down by the staggering absentee rate. Although I must mention that teachers who forego lessons on skip day don't exactly help the problem. I have been saying things like this my whole life but...if I were a teacher, I would have penalties for not showing up on skip days if I really wanted them to be there. Some teachers do

this, and their students come to class. I don't think they are the ones complaining. Maybe other teachers should follow their example. A teacher really could not expect a student to attend school if they knew

nothing would be done that day, that is just silly. I know I wouldn't show. Um...not that I wouldn't be sick that day, though.

The fact remains that teachers will probably not change this year and that there is a very real possibility of the home and school visitor actually paying you a visit if you do not attend classes. I do not think I'm the only one who doesn't want Mr. Eagle knocking on my door when I'm skipping. I mean when I have a really bad cold. So seniors, when they announce, "The senior outing has been canceled, please see Mr. Eagle for details," first of all, don't see Mr. Eagle, and secondly, give a second thought to whether it is really worth it to skip. You may have the whole day of the prom to think about it otherwise.

CLIFF ROEHN
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Silhouette

Ambridge Area High School

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The SILHOUETTE is the student newspaper of Ambridge Area High School. It is a laboratory for students pursuing the field of journalism and is designed to serve the total school community.

The SILHOUETTE will be a public forum for the exchange of comment and criticism, open to students, faculty, administration, parents, and others in the school community. The SILHOUETTE is the official school newspaper published once a month at the cost of 25 cents per issue. It is printed by the Record Printing Company of Ambridge.

The editorial opinion is that of the Editorial Board. Any letters to the editor may be submitted to any member of the staff or to the newspaper in Room B-8. Letters received are subject to review by the Board before publication.

Gossip-an invasion of privacy

by Bonnie Marr

Listening. If it is one of the greatest gifts we possess, then why must everyone abuse it? Gossip is overriding society. People fail to listen to what is the truth anymore.

Society listens only to what it wants to hear. From T.V. talk shows with Leeza and Ricki Lake to students here at Ambridge High School gossip has reached an extreme. There seems to be that students need to be involved prominently in one another's lives. Try this little game once. As you're walking down the halls of this fine institution, instead of looking at your shoelaces, open your ears and listen to what people say. You might just get a kick out of it! And it's not just the girls either. The guys are getting just as bad. Phrases like, "Did you see what she's wearing?", "Why is he going out with her?" and "Did

you hear what he did over the weekend?" plague Ambridge. The gossip doesn't end there. Harsh rumors about people tend to spread throughout this high school like wildfire. I know I am not the only person to notice the happenings. What is this unnecessary need to degrade one another of equal standing?

It's ridiculous what people come up with anymore. Some gossip is just made-up for kicks. These people must wake up in the morning and say, "Hey let's totally humiliate someone today just for the fun of it!" That is almost morbid. Wow, someone needs a life if their

only goal in life is to gossip. Not good grades or valued morals. No, that's not important at all. To come to school and the only thing a person does is gossip all day long. What business is it of anyone else if one person does this and another does that? If it does not affect you directly-and I mean one-on-one directly- then who cares? It's not your problem!

If someone wants to get a different haircut or date a guy from another school that's their own personal life. I look at gossip as an intrusion on people's privacy. Nothing is private anymore. I especially feel bad for actors and

actresses in Hollywood. One might say that they chose that way of life but maybe that is the only way of life they know or can live. Rumors fly around with no concern that these are actual people being hurt by vicious talk. Yes, everyone gossips every once in awhile, because I know I'll catch myself sometimes. The fact is that gossip is getting excessive and constant.

One student states, "You can't talk to anyone in this school without rumors flying around." I know I can trust my close personal friends, but it is sad that some people can not even do that.

With one thought left to say (and a very important one at that I think), if you can't say anything nice don't say anything at all.

What is the value of life?

by Nicole Webb

After giving birth to a baby boy in a hotel room, two college students allegedly tossed their child in a dumpster and fled. A woman from Ohio left her newborn baby to die in a field outside her mother's home.

Locally on December 13, the body of a newborn baby boy was found at a recycling center on Duss Avenue, Ambridge. The infant, with his umbilical cord still attached, had been hidden in a garbage bag.

All three murder cases shocked people from across the country. Questions were asked: "Who would do this to a child?" and "Why would anyone murder a baby?" Many hoped that the murderers would receive the highest degree of penalty.

As shocking as the incidents may seem, murdering babies is nothing new. In fact, it is actually legal. In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the unborn baby is property of the expectant mother until the day the baby is conceived. The Court stated that since the baby is in the womb, it is the mother's right to choose an abortion for any and every reason. Today, almost 25

years after the 1973 Supreme Court decision, over 1.5 million abortions are performed each year.

According to law, if the mother is in the above three cases had chosen a partial birth abortion to end the life of their child, they would not have been charged for murder. Partial birth abortion is performed after the fifth month of pregnancy. In partial birth abortion all but the baby's head is delivered. The abortionist then proceeds to kill the baby. This gruesome procedure is also called Intrauterine Crania Decompression.

What separates a partial birth abortion from directly murdering the infant after natural delivery? Only the fact that the baby's head is still in the mother's body. The baby is just a few inches away from being fully delivered when she is killed. Contrary to popular belief, the baby does feel the pain of the murder.

The House of Representatives recently voted to ban partial birth abortion. President Clinton and the Senate however, vetoed the ban. Their veto is proof of America's disrespect for life.

Congressman Henry Hyde, who voted in favor of the ban, said, "It is not just the babies that are

dying for the lethal sin of being unwanted or being handicapped or malformed. We are dying, and not from the darkness, but from the cold, the coldness of self-brutalization that chills our sensibilities, deadens our consciences, and allows us to think of this unspeakable act as an act of compassion."

In America, it is not only the lives of the unborn that are disregarded, but also the lives of elderly, mentally ill and terminally ill people. The legality of assisted suicide and euthanasia is presently being debated in court. If a law is passed declaring assisted suicide and euthanasia legal, everyone would have access to lethal drugs as long as they had a doctor's consent.

Lethal injections could be prescribed to terminally and mentally ill patients of all ages. That means that children would have the consent of the government to end their life.

Who has given American the right to decide who gets to live? It seems as though the government is sending out the message that only the perfectly formed and mentally competent have a right to live; that those who are "inferior" should be disposed of.

With America's gradual devaluing of human life comes a new question; Where do we draw the line? If an abortionist is allowed to end the life of a child when she is just inches away from being fully delivered, what makes murdering the child after delivery illegal? And what gives a doctor the right to prescribe lethal drugs to a person who could live indefinitely with the proper medical treatment and care?

The Declaration of Independence states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Had the Declaration been written today, it would be stated that everyone but the unborn, elderly, mentally ill, terminally ill and mentally incompetent have those rights. Court rulings have robbed them of their rights.

Casually tossing newborns into the trash is just a glimpse of what is to come. If America can so easily rationalize partial birth abortions and assisted suicides, should it come as a shock that people are throwing their babies away?

Block scheduling becomes a reality

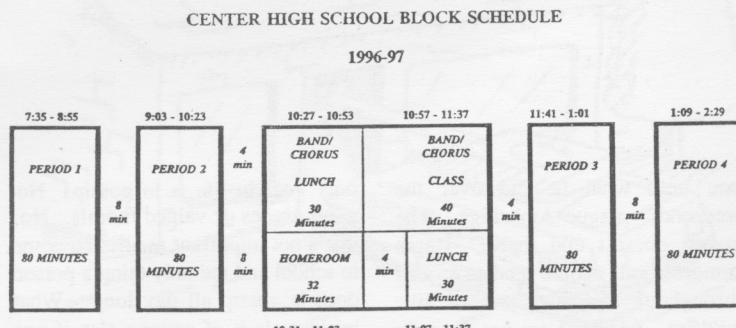
by Emily DelGreco

"We've been in a traditional schedule for as long as I can remember . . . The greatest problem that we've experienced is the fact that not all of our students could access our curriculum as frequently as they should. They were not taking advantage of the electives being offered out there because their hands were tied in regards to our seven period day." - Center High Principal Ronald DeBacco

Block scheduling is a restructuring of the traditional seven or eight period day into a four period day consisting of 80 minute classes and the traditional 40 minute lunch. Center High School is, at the time of this writing, entering the thirteenth week under this new schedule. Although they are by no means the first Pennsylvania high school to implement the reform, Center will be leading the way for many other local schools. Their progress in "the block" will be closely monitored by many school boards across the state including Ambridge's.

According to Mr. DeBacco, Center has been in the "planning stages" of block scheduling for about 2 years. The idea was introduced by Vice-principal Mike McCullough who arrived at the school nearly three years ago from Everett High, located near Breezewood. Everett had just implemented the block upon McCullough's leave. "So he basically had gone through the working scheme of block scheduling," said Mr. DeBacco, "So we didn't have to bring in an outside consultant. We already had someone here who had gone through it. We did visit schools who had the block scheduling already implemented" as part of the planning process, said DeBacco. "We visited Oak Glen. We visited Fox Chapel . . . Some of our teachers had the opportunity to visit Everett." "Last year we did a lot of inservicing with our teachers. Our teachers had an opportunity to do an inservice in cooperative learning. We did some lessons in preparing lesson plans. We had some outsiders come in and speak to our various departments on various disciplines. Essentially, we used a whole year during Act 80 days for that particular inservicing," he said.

As far as informing parents of the change, DeBacco said, "Last



Graphic courtesy of Center Area High School

year we set up two forums for our parents. . . We've come up with progress reports for our students. Never before did we give progress reports. We only gave warning deficiency reports. . . Every student that they [the teacher] have receives a progress report," he said.

DeBacco states that band and chorus students, who traditionally give up one elective each year for either or both disciplines, will benefit from the block because "they can take four courses the first semester and four courses the second semester. This gives them the opportunity to take more electives than they ever could have taken before (because) band and chorus are not one of those blocks. We have a separate block of time in the middle of the day when the rest of our student body is in homeroom for forty minutes, our band and chorus students go to their respective class." Students that are not in band or chorus utilize the time to "access the computer rooms to do reports or go to the library . . . All of our college reps that visit the school come at that particular time. Make up work is done during that period of time. We use also that flux time for tutorial. We have discouraged our clubs to meet during that time." DeBacco said, "We don't have to steal any time from our block scheduling for various activities."

The average tenure among Center High teacher is 23 years. Concerning faculty response to the block, DeBacco said, "No one likes change. We get very comfortable in our particular situation. It took a year to really get our faculty to embrace the idea. And they did. They came to consensus and embraced the idea. We felt what is going to be the best schedule that we can present not to our faculty, but

algebra II the entire year, had three months off and then took trigonometry in September. Every teacher reviews at the beginning of the year. We feel the retention rate would be just as good if not better [under the block]."

"Teachers were concerned about having enough time in a semester to cover as much material within the book as they did under a full year of school. . . Of course we attempt to encourage our teachers not to be book driven. Be more student driven. Be sure that when they leave that classroom they have a grasp on the particular concepts that you're trying to teach. Do a little more hands on work."

"One of the greatest complaints our students have at this particular time is the length of the study halls being eighty minutes. So what we are attempting to do is, opposite the study halls, have our teachers put together four and a half week courses. An example of a four and half week course would be the SAT prep in math the SAT prep in English. Our nurse is putting together a CPR class. We are asking an awful lot of our teachers this first semester."

Concerning make up work,
Continued on page 5

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Senior Kristi Janscar sees no limitations



by Bonnie Marr

The first impression of Kristi Janscar is usually a shock. How can a person be so happy all the time? Well, it is quite easy for this spunky teen. Eighteen year old senior Kristi

Block

Continued from page 4

DeBacco said, "The nice thing about block scheduling is that when you come back from your absence you are only faced with four classes to make up. Or if you have gym, there are only three subjects to make up. . . The eighty minute period allows for a teacher to spend some quality time in their class after they have gone over their lesson and maybe assigned some independent practice to the class, they can isolate the student [that has been absent]. There is always tutorial after school between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m.," DeBacco said.

Janscar sees no limitations.

As an accomplished student, Kristi takes such courses as AP Biology, CP English, psychology and trigonometry. With a 3.7 grade point average she sits in the top ten percent of Ambridge's senior class.

Kristi moved to Ambridge High School in November 1995 from Burgettstown. Her good grades and high honors stayed with her. She misses the "old environment and somewhat smaller atmosphere" of her old school but she likes Ambridge and has even become involved in many activities. Her activity list includes National Honor Society,

Student Council, Interact, French Club and cheerleading.

This blonde-haired senior made all-stars for UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association). This gave her a chance to go to London for the New Year's parade (which she declined) and a chance to try out for UCA staff. She has cheered since second grade and hopes to continue cheering in college. She has applied to the University of Kentucky, University of North Carolina, University of South Carolina and Ohio State University. She is hoping to attend Ohio State with a double major in Biology and pre-law.

Outside of school and cheerleading Kristi likes to golf, play tennis and participate in gymnastics. She loves to ski and watch movies in the rec room in her basement. But, aside from it all, she still loves to cheer and spend time with her friends. Kristi states, "I try to be a happy person because it takes too much to be miserable. That's what I am inside--happy. I have no desire to be upset." She feels that it doesn't matter what other people think. Kristi ends with, "Happy people have a lot more to look forward to in life than those who are dismal."

Scheduling, Cont.

The general outlook of the administration and school board is positive. Dr. Michael Sisk was the board president when the block was voted upon. The results were unanimously in favor of the change. Sisk feels there is no academic risk in the block, but that "the down side of it is the length of time [of the classes]. Teachers have to get very creative." Mr. Jeff Druzak is another board member who feels the switch was made to "offer more courses, devote more work time to labs and have different programs to accompany learning that

cannot be done in 50 minutes."

Mr. William VanDeCar is a biology teacher at Center. He agrees with the change. However, "I'm not totally sold on it," he said. As a science teacher, he uses more hands-on techniques and more labs. Asked about the faults of the block, VanDeCar simply stated, "days when I don't have these kinds of activities." He feels it is too early to make a real assessment of the scheduling, but stated that the students have been "very responsive" to the change.

As a librarian, Mrs. Gloria

Kingerski said in regards to the block, "it hasn't really affected me." She feels that observing at West Virginia high schools did not provide the proper outlook for the research because state laws are different. She stated that the final decision was not left up to the faculty and currently disagrees with the change. Mrs. Kingerski considers the block to be beneficial to practical arts classes like art and home economics and also allows for extended labs. Several teachers have told her that they are behind in their curriculum, however. Concerning the decision itself, she said, "they [the

Continued on page 9

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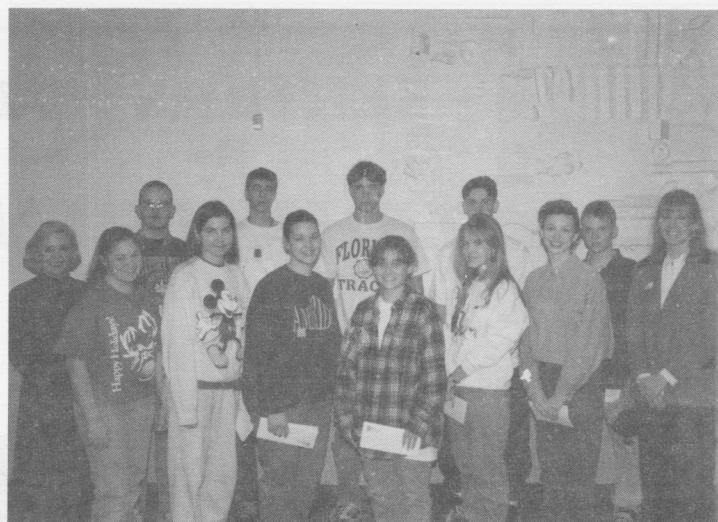
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The following is a list of the Mistletoe Ticket Raffle Winners sponsored by the cafeteria staff and Hunt/Wesson: From (L to R) Mrs. Janet Giannmaria, Director of Food Services, Kristi Deblasio, Rob Vignere, Angie Armstrong, Todd Dziak, Rachel Konvolinka, Jim Neese, Lisa Cercone, Eric Dewitt, Michelle Panutso, Sarah Webberking, Eric Merryman, Ms. Theresa Janis, Representative Sales Manager for Hunt/Wesson

Staff Memories of '96

by Rich Dugan

The football team didn't have the greatest season, but we still fought to the very end. My 1996 memory would have to be leading Kiski 14-7 in the second quarter in the only game I ever started. It was exhilarating having the upper hand on our opponent.

by Baby Mine

My most significant memory of 1996 is my trip to Tampa, Florida. I had the best time spending

Christmas with family that I don't regularly see during the holidays. It was enjoyable and the weather was excellent, and I hope to do it again sometime.

by Emily Del Greco

I could lie and say that I'll remember some great international occurrence or some bittersweet sports victory, but in truth, none of these things will live in my mind until I'm . . . say . . . 40. My memory will be Thursday, November 7: the day my lung collapsed. It will be hard to disregard my first night in the

hospital with a plastic tube in my chest and an i.v. in my arm. That kind of feeling is hard to forget.

by Mike Cody

My most poignant memory of 1996 came in late December, during the funeral of my great-grandmother who passed away at the age of 100. While all the cars were slowly driving to the cemetery, the sky was filled with swirls of white, powdery snow. Most of the family members attending grumbled about driving through another western PA snowstorm. However, for my aunt, who was a California resident and had never seen snow before, the day was nothing short of magical. "This is your grandmother's final gift to us," she said, laughing and trying to catch the snow of her tongue. I'll never forget the smile on her face, or the peaceful feeling I felt, knowing that even in a time of sadness, innocent joy could prevail.

by Katie Madonna and Jaime Cole

Munich the year before. They spoke very little English. But we had gotten A's in German, so we understood as much as we needed. We danced all night until the Diskothek closed at 3 in the morning. After that, we walked the streets of Munich and saw the most amazing sunrise we've ever seen. They took us to breakfast at a tiny street cafe'. We realized what time it was and decided that we must be going before the wake-up call in about one hour. When we parted we promised that we would write, but we never did. Maybe it is better that way. We may always remember our trip to Germany, but we will definitely never forget that night.

by Bonnie Marr

My most memorable experience of 1996 was when a bunch of my friends and I went to the Horde Fest on August 13. I don't think I have ever had that much fun.

by Peggy Madonna

One of my most memorable experiences of 1996 was near-starvation.

When my parents left for a two week long European vacation, they left my sister and me a large sum of money to buy groceries. But, being as mature as we are, we spent the money on clothes and other dumb stuff. Not fully understanding what we had done, we were content with our new clothes- until we got hungry, that is.

So, we lived on fudgesicles for a couple of days and then we started going through all of the coat pockets in the house until we had enough for a pizza. When the pizza guy came, we handed him a very large envelope full of dimes and nickels and a little something extra for him- a quarter! For some reason I think he hated us.

Around the second week we were begging people for money and we resorted to calling third cousins trying to get a dinner invite. Some of our relatives had even died unbeknownst to us. We told our neighbors of our problem and they gave us a meatloaf! I guess it is kind of funny now as opposed to then when I was having 6 year-old oatmeal 3 times a day.



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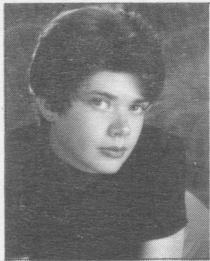
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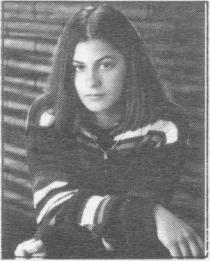
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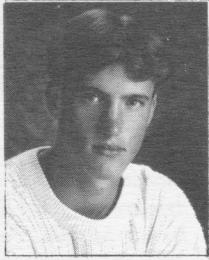
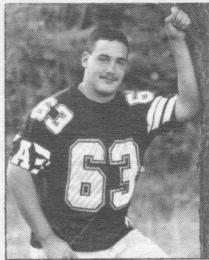
SENIORS '97
By
T.R. McCLELLAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Ambridge competes at Beaver Co. Christmas Cup

by Mike Dwyer

Unlike any other sports team in Ambridge, the boys' soccer team is trying to transform itself from a good team in to a top quality program. One of the many steps in this process was the Inaugural Beaver County Christmas Cup, held at the high school on Friday, December 27. The 6v6 tournament fielded ten teams from Beaver County, including two from Ambridge. The teams were split into two brackets, with Ambridge Arsenal, Center Gray, Blackhawk II, Beaver County Christian and Ellwood City in one group and Ambridge United, Center Blue, Blackhawk I, Beaver and New Brighton in the other. From 8 am to 1 pm, each bracket played in a round robin format, with the last place team in each being excluded from the tournament. Games were played on two sites. One site spanned two basketball courts in the field house and the other was in the old gym (or "The Pit", as it came to be known).

The first game of the day featured Ambridge United and Center Blue, two very good teams. Blue seemed to be better prepared for the slippery surface as they scored two late goals to win, 3-2. United recovered quickly, though, defeating Beaver, 2-1 in the next game. United then went on to play back to back games in the old gym, a very unpleasant task.

The old gym's small playing surface and brick walls brought out a brand of "smashmouth soccer" that was not very pretty to watch. Janitors were called upon to clean up blood on the floor on many occasions.

Led by the fine play of freshman Brian Bajek and sophomores Tony Sylvester and Chris Janis, United battled Blackhawk I to a 1-1 tie in the first half of their third game. But several questionable calls late in the game led to two Blackhawk goals and another heartbreaking loss. In the second game of their doubleheader,

United came out angry and handled New Brighton, 4-2. United ended up the fourth seed in the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Arsenal steamrolled through their first three games with the strong forward combination of sophomores Justin Kosta and Tim Costanza, Arsenal averaged over six goal a game while the defense of juniors Mike Zatchey and Jason Benkowski and sophomores Jesse Spain and Luke Sirenek held opposing forwards in check. In their fourth game, Arsenal ventured down to the old gym to face Center Gray. In one of the ugliest games of the tournament, the two teams fought tooth and nail to a 2-2 tie. Questionable refereeing was once again a factor as several pushing matches and skirmishes broke out. The most controversial call of the day was made after the game when Arsenal goalie Eugene Faiella was suspended from his next game for alleged unsportsmanlike conduct. Fortunately, Arsenal still had a good enough record for the first seed in the

playoffs.

In the playoffs, United once again went to the old gym to play fifth-seeded Center Gray. They entered the game battered and bruised: goalie James Raymer was kicked in the back of the head, defender Chris Janis suffered a badly bruised foot, and midfielder Justin Bonus had a broken thumb.

After two fluke goals early, United couldn't recover as they were eliminated from the playoffs in the first round, 3-0.

Arsenal however, had no such trouble. With Zatchey filling in for Faiella, Arsenal charged through the playoffs without breaking a sweat with victories over Blackhawk II, 6-1, their old friends Center Gray, 9-0, and in the final Tim Costanza scored four goals and was named the tournament's MVP as Ambridge Arsenal hoisted the Beaver County Christmas Cup with a victory over Blackhawk I, 8-1.

Physical Education Dept. sponsors Bridger Cup Tournament

by Rich Dugan

The physical education department sponsored a street hockey tournament on December 20 in the old gym.

Team Pitaro, made up of six senior and junior guys: John Pitaro, Bob Ryms, Jim Peterson, Adam Khrenovi, Jeremy Thompson and Tom Pellegrini, won the coveted Bridger Cup. They soundly defeated the Punishers in the championship game 4-2. They also defeated Team Merriman, which was made up of all

hockey players and was the pre-tournament favorite, 2-1 in overtime.

Mr. Sangermano and Mr. Skonieczny believed the tournament was a rousing success. Mr. Sangermano said, "I believe the tournament was a lot of fun and hopefully we can get another one organized."

The single elimination tournament was made up of eighteen teams of juniors and seniors. Each game lasted ten minutes and a running clock was used. Another



Competitors of the Bridger Cup Tournament strive for a goal.

Photo by R. Kuzma

highlight of the tournament was an all girls team. Team Webb, which consisted of five junior girls, lost in the first round with a score of 8-0, but were the only girls team in the tournament. Also, if a game ended in a tie, it went to a shootout, which led

to some of the most exciting action.

Congratulations to Team Pitaro and the rest of the hockey players who participated in the first of hopefully many Bridger Cup tournaments.

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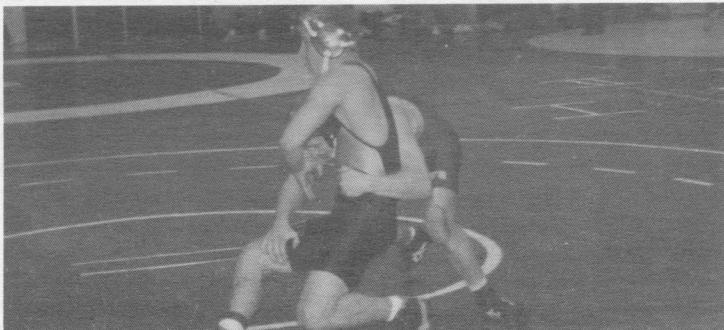
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Ambridge wrestling pins the competition

by Kristie Miller

Wrestling season is underway with a new rule. The rule is called the "four point near-fall rule." Instead of getting three points for a near fall, wrestlers are now awarded four points for this feat.

Ambridge High School and Quigley High School continue to combine resources to produce a solid team. Our 1996-1997 wrestling squad consists of eleven varsity members. According to captain Tim Painter, "What we lack in experience as a team, we make up for in



Tournament wrestler tries to overtake his opponent at recent competition.

enthusiasm!"

In addition to all the new faces, the team is sporting a unique

family aspect. Captain Shaun Lyle and his sister Andrea bring a combined 23 years experience in

wrestling. Being the only girl on the squad does not bother Sissy, whose nickname is misleading. She "loves the sport" and "enjoys being on the team."

Coach Ed Driscoll is considered a "tough coach" and "one of the best around." To strengthen his young team, Driscoll holds practice each afternoon from 3:00-5:00 p.m. His squad has posted one win and four losses to date.

Matches are held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Quigley gymnasium.

Boys hockey team gains wins and respect

by Sarah Clark

Ambridge hockey has not always been well recognized due to its often dismal records. However, this year's varsity hockey team is turning that around. Led by senior captain Josh Miller and other impressive goal scorers such as Brian Grinnik and Petri Wiklund, Ambridge was tied for third place with a 5-4 record as of December 8.

Also as of December 8, Ambridge had three players on the

list of top 25 goal scorers with Wiklund in third, Grinnik in tenth and Miller ranking twenty-fourth. However, there's more to a team than just its offense. According to coach Tony Miller, Ambridge's winning record is due to "just everybody playing well together."

The Bridgers are closing in on a playoff spot. It's too soon to tell; the team will not know if they are until mid-January, but their coach feels that "We have a good chance at making the playoffs."

No matter what happens this year, Coach Miller is looking ahead. He will be losing several key players due to graduation this June, but

admits to scouting out the junior varsity team. He sees some blossoming players that will really give hockey a future in Ambridge.



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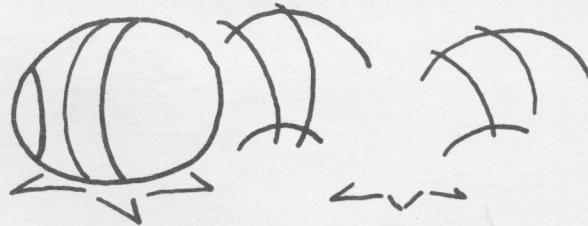
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Girls varsity basketball "rebounds"

by Bryan Hooks

The 1996-1997 Ambridge Girls Varsity Basketball team is having an impressive season.

The teams record is 7-3. They are having one of their best seasons to date. Ambridge won the Thanksgiving tournament at OLSH on November 29-30. The team has fifteen games remaining, and playoffs could be in the future. The basketball team will be facing one of their rivals, Beaver, on January 16. This year's team is coached by Tom



Cvitkouk and assisted by Bob Orsag. The team members feel that this year is a big improvement compared to past years. Kenisha Carlisle and Stephanie Szabo are leading the lady

Bridgers this year with their senior status. They feel that the underclassmen are stepping up. Jen Orsag, a freshman point guard, is said to have been having some

strong performances. The team feels that it is their defense that wins games. Playoffs start February 11. When asked how the teams future looks in years to come, sophomore Kelly McCracken replied, "With the talent coming down and with the talent we already have, I feel that we will keep getting better." When asked what she felt the rest of the season would hold, senior Stephanie Szabo ended with, "I think we have a really good chance of going to the playoffs if we keep doing the things we do with our defense."

Boys basketball hopes to contend

by Rich Dugan

The 1996-1997 Ambridge Area Varsity Boys' Basketball Team is poised to contend for a playoff spot.

Led by center Yavon Leggs and guards Ron Janicki and Rob Bouterse, who all average over fifteen points per game, the Bridgers started off the season with a win against section rival Shaler. They have since stumbled to a 1-2 section mark, 4-8 overall, but they played impressively in the Center

Tournament. During the three day competition they went 2-1 and finished in a strong 4th place.

Coach Jeff Meddock believes the team can reach the goal of a 7-5 record and make the playoffs. He also feels the best has yet to come for Ambridge Basketball as both the junior varsity and ninth grade teams are having excellent seasons.

The future is very bright for Ambridge Basketball, since their potential is beginning to produce results.

Block Scheduling

Continued from page 5

administration] had their minds made up to do it."

Senior Stacy Sustar is editor of both the yearbook and school newspaper, member of student council, ski club, library club, homecoming committee and an All-American as well. She has experienced the traditional Center schedule and is now forming her opinion of the block. "In some ways I agree with it, in some ways I don't," she said. She enjoys the extra time in some of her classes but is bored in others. "It's really hard to pay attention," she said, "the teachers aren't prepared enough." When asked why her school adopted block scheduling, Stacy said, "I honestly have no idea." She expressed her belief that "in the long run" the change can be beneficial to students. For now, though, she feels that students need to get more involved and teachers must have more group work. She will not be taking a math class until the semester's end in January and fears that she doesn't remember much of what she needs to know. Although Stacy was already accepted for college, the school will not receive a transcript of the grades that focus on her major because she will not take them until next semester. She is also disappointed in the increase in smoking in the school bathrooms due to eight minute passing periods. On a more positive note, however, Stacy said, "I get all my homework done in school."

Megan O'Neil is also a senior. She is taking business courses this year and feels very positive about the block, "It raised

my G.P.A. I get more time to ask questions in class. I get all of my homework done in class and the teachers go a lot slower," she said. She feels that "teachers are just trying to learn this [first] semester." She does not feel bored during the day and states that "a lot of teachers will give you a break." She appreciates the extra time to work in her computer class, but states that "missing one day in block scheduling is like missing two [in traditional scheduling]." "I like it," she said, "I think a lot of kids do. I just think we did it too fast."

Sophomore Josh Wolfe feels his day "goes a lot faster" with the block. "I'm learning a little better and there is more time to ask questions," he said. He claims never to get restless after one period, "unless it is a really boring class." He has more homework in his math class but also accomplishes more during the day. Josh maintains that "no one liked it [block scheduling] at first, but now everyone seems to like it."

As far as the future of Center High and block scheduling is concerned, maybe Mr. DeBacco said it best when he stated, "It's a new concept. It's brand new. You could talk about it and you could go to all the inservice meetings, but until you are actually in that classroom for eighty minutes. . . the general consensus of the staff is that they are having to work very, very hard at this. By the time the second semester rolls around they are going to learn from their mistakes."

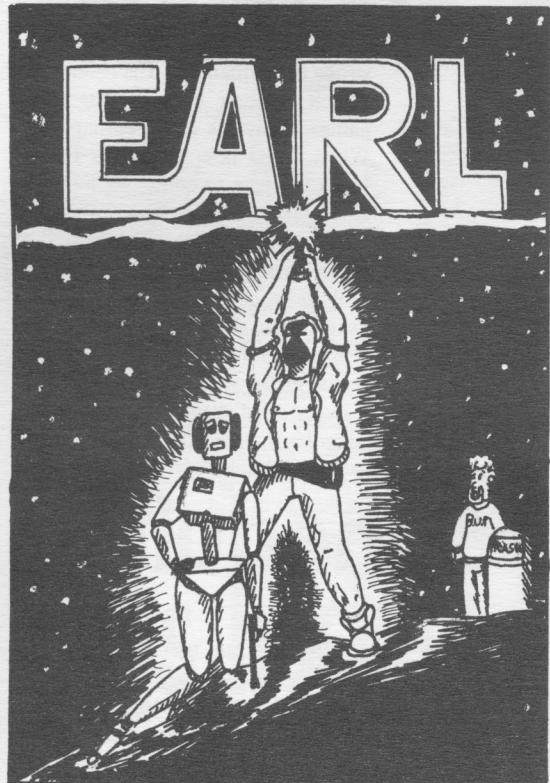
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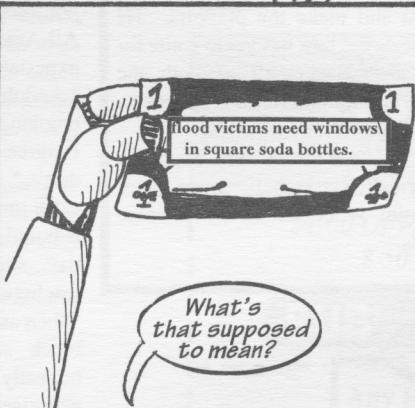
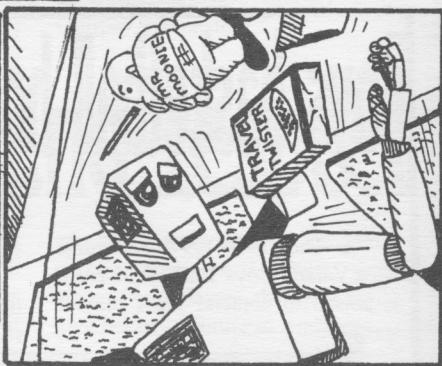
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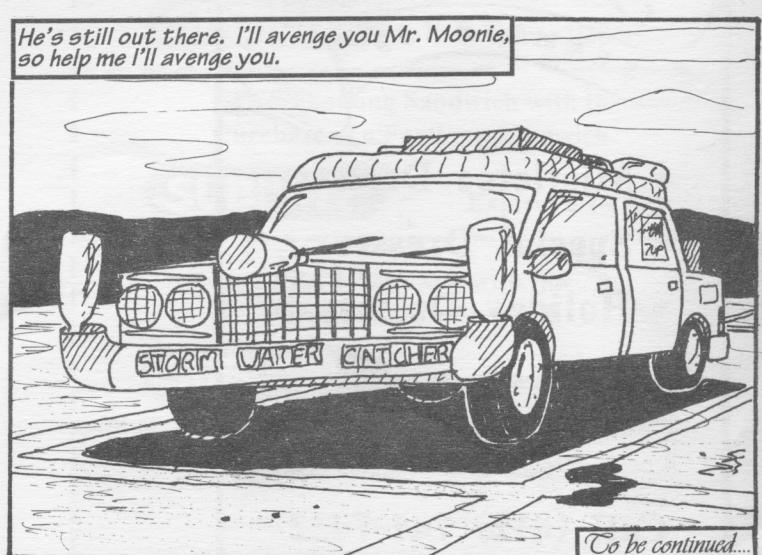
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BY JOEY KULIK



The next day...



To be continued...



Bridger Review



Music Review

by Emily Del Greco

Every once in a while a film will come around that makes you think about life and your role in it. It poses new questions about your very existence and conjures up feelings you never knew you had. *Casino*, however, was not this movie. A mediocre Mafia flick at best, the movie's real highlight was not in the story, but in the setting: Las Vegas. This was the Vegas of the seventies, raw and untamed. Before the casino day care centers and family theme parks, Vegas was strictly entertainment. . . adult entertainment. The basis of this entertainment was built on the music of the age. The self-described "soul of Las Vegas in 31 songs," the *Casino* motion picture soundtrack is one of the best of its kind, anywhere.

The two CD set is all-encompassing, including everyone from Muddy Waters to Hoagy Carmichael to Cream. The collection is excellently compiled with those songs that you've heard before but never remembered the name of. Director Martin Scorsese also served as one of the executive soundtrack directors. This is obvious in the almost perfect choice of song for each scene. For example, every gory, bloody, so-graphic-it-has-to-be-Scorsese murder is set against the elegant backdrop of "Contempt- Theme de Camille." If you've seen the film, you'll remember the song.

The entire first CD is awesome. The highlight pieces include "I'll Take You There" performed by The Staple Singers, "Go Your Own Way" performed by Fleetwood Mac and Roxy Music's "Love is the Drug." The greatest performance, however, has to be Louis Prima singing the ever-addictive "Angelina/Zooma Zooma Medley." For those of you lost souls who have never heard Prima I can only urge you to do so. You cannot possibly understand the power of a half-crazed, nicotine-voiced Italian until you've heard Louis Prima.

The second CD features Jeff

Beck and Rod Stewart performing "I Ain't Superstitious," Eric Burdon's "House of the Rising Sun" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by none other than the infamous Devo. The Copa Room is also included on the set with tracks from Dean Martin and Tony Bennett.

In short, this is the best soundtrack to come out of any movie in quite some time. Its appeal is so widespread that nearly twenty years after the songs were recorded, they are being rediscovered in the 90's. The movie poster for *Casino* included a motto of sorts. It read: "No one stays at the top forever." This may hold true for the movie; however, the music of *Casino* is timeless.

Restaurant Review

by Doug Costa

Throughout one's high school years, there are always certain key events. For me, one of these occurred in tenth grade when I first ventured to Wings, Suds, and Spuds, located in Moon Township. It was there that I learned firsthand the joys of chicken-wing eating.

Though the menu offers items such as burgers (I've never had one) and nachos, as well as various appetizers, the focus is clearly on the wings. There are several varieties of wings available, but I have always preferred buffalo style and honey-dipped. The teriyaki and honey-barbecue are also recommended. The wings are also available with two options, extra-hot and extra-wet, each of which cost an additional twenty-five cents. Wings, Suds, and Spuds also serves excellent French fries.

A typical meal for two will cost between ten and fifteen dollars, which is reasonable considering the value you get for the money. I have never known someone to leave the restaurant not filled and satisfied. Unfortunately, Wings, Suds, and Spuds is not a secret, so expect a potentially long wait, varying from virtually nothing to over an hour. In addition, parking is cramped. For those planning a party a take-out service is offered.

Despite the few short

comings, this is one of my favorite restaurants. It has a casual, pleasant atmosphere, and the service is excellent. Of course, the wings are the best around, and probably the best that I have ever tasted. This combines to produce an experience which is not to be forgotten. I give Wings, Suds, and Spuds my very highest recommendation.

Video Review

by Carole Bunting

Don't let the credits fool you, once the last name is flashed, the action in *Eraser* explodes and does not stop until the ending credits. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the star of the movie, does an outstanding job playing John Kruger, a man who "erases" a person's identity before they enter the Witness Protection Program. The people are "erased" in such a way that it can not be proven that they are still alive.

Kruger is assigned to protect Ms. Lee Cullen, who is played by Vanessa Williams. She discovered a mistake at her work and reported it to the FBI, who suspected that the company that she worked for, CYREZ, had been making weapons and selling them to the highest bidder. The FBI asked her to help them obtain some hard evidence against her company so they could be prosecuted.

In doing this she endangered herself and others as well. Kruger used any means necessary to save her, including ones that seemed unrealistic at times. One of his amazing feats was jumping out of an airplane after his parachute.

James Caan stars as Robert Deguerin, a man who works with Kruger. Deguerin is a pivotal character and Caan does an excellent job portraying him. Deguerin's boss, Beller, is played by James Coburn.

Many people who have been helped by Kruger provide their assistance throughout the movie. Johnny, played by Robert Pastorelli, helps Kruger the most. Without his help, Kruger and Cullen would not have survived.

I greatly enjoyed watching this movie. I recommend that

everyone see *Eraser*, but if you have a weak stomach, you might want to keep a trash can or paper bag beside you.

Movie Review

by Jenni Richards

Beavis and Butt-head Do America was exactly what I expected it to be. The jokes were perverse, the plot was bad and the movie as a whole was absolutely hilarious. In other words, it was the best TV-show-turned-movie I have seen yet.

The movie opens when Beavis and Butt-head awake to a broken window, a trail of dirty footprints and the absence of their beloved television set. After the few moments it took them to realize what had happened, they start off on a journey to find it. Through a series of very strange and very stupid misunderstandings the two end up on a cross-country adventure that sees them have a desert experience, cause havoc on an airplane and act as priests.

Beavis and Butt-head Do America was only an hour and a half long, but it was well worth the 10 minutes I stood in line. This isn't the kind of movie you watch by yourself, but if you and a group of friends are looking for something to do on a weekend, this movie is definitely it. *Beavis and Butt-head Do America* may not be much, but it sure is a good, cheap laugh.

STAR RATING SYSTEM

★★★★★ Da Bomb

★★★★ Better than a Mentos Commercial

★★ My Mom liked it

★ I'd rather do Calculus